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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/687,807 | 10/20/2003 | Saijiro Endo | 03500.017658 | 2445 |
| 5514 | 7590 | 02/23/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO | | | NGO, HOANG X | |
| 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA | | | ART UNIT | |
| NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | | 2852 | |

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/687,807 | Applicant(s) ENDO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Hoang Ngo | Art Unit 2852 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,9,11-14 and 16-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,8,10 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/3/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 5 and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 5, lines 7-8, the term, "is great as compared" should be changed to - -is greater as compared- - to be consistent to previous term used.

Claim 18, lines 4, the term, "is great as compared" should be changed to - -is greater as compared- - to be consistent to previous term used.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11-14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kucera et al.

Kucera et al disclose a sheet feeding apparatus comprising a sheet stacking unit 31 for stacking sheets S thereon; sheet feeding unit 21, 22 for feeding the sheets stacked on the sheet stacking unit; a heating unit 62 for heating the sheets stacked on the sheet stacking unit, wherein the heating unit is designed such that a heating value of a heat generating area for a central portion of the sheets stacked on the sheet-stacking unit is greater than a heating value of the other heat generating area (Fig. 8 shows the

heating unit 62 is located directly above the central part of sheets S and therefore should produces more heat in the central part).

Kucera et al further disclose the central portion of the heat generating areas of the heating unit and the central portion of the sheets stacked on the sheet stacking unit coincide with each other (Fig. 7); the heating unit has a plurality of single wire-shaped heaters (i.e. elements 61, 62, Fig. 7); the heating means having heating value for the central portion and a leading edge portion of the sheets in a sheet conveying direction is greater as compared with a heating value of the other heat generating area (Col. 3, lines 60-67).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3, 4, 8, 10, and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art of record teaches the heating unit that generates heat substantially along the diagonals of the sheets stacked on the sheet stacking unit.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Watanabe et al and Johnson disclose other heat units used for heating media tray.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2138. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00am - 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Hoang Ngo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

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